

Message Text

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42

ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 NIC-01 DRC-01 IO-14 /118 W

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R 141140Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1118

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

C O N F I D E N T I A L COLOMBO 1605

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CE, KS, KN

SUBJ: KOREAN RELATIONS WITH SRI LANKA

REF: A) COLOMBO 2827, NOVEMBER 14, 1973 (NOTAL)

B) SEOUL 8517, DECEMBER 19, 1973 (NOTAL)

C) SEOUL 3782 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY: NEW KOREAN TRADE REPRESENTATIVE HAS TOLD AMBASSADOR ROK HOPES IT WILL BE ABLE ESTABLISH FULL DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH PAKISTAN AND EGYPT BY END OF THIS YEAR. HE HAS AUTHORITY NEGOTIATE ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH GSL, BUT NO PROGRESS IN THIS DIRECTION HAS BEEN MADE SO FAR. RENCE T NORTH KOREAN MISSION TO MALDIVES TO DISCUSS UN MATTERS WAS REPORTEDLY UNSUCCESSFUL IN OBTAINING HIGH-LEVEL MEETING WITH GSL OFFICIALS HERE IN EFFORT TO RESTAFF EMBASSY, PERSONNEL OF WHICH WERE ASKED TO LEAVE AT TIME OF 1971 INSURGENCY. END SUMMARY.

2. DURING CALL ON AMBASSADOR JUNE 12, NEW KOREAN TRADE REPRESENTATIVE, DR. HYO WON CHO, SAID THAT ROK HOPES BY END OF YEAR TO UPGRADE
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INS CONSULATES GENERAL IN PAKISTAN AND EGYPT TO

EMBASSIES HEADED BY AMBASSADORS. HE EXPRESSED HOPE THAT THESE ACTIONS WOULD PROVIDE ADDITIONAL IMPETUS TO ROK'S EFFORTS TO ESTABLISH DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH GSL. DR. CHO." WHO HAS PERSONAL RANK OF AMBASSADOR, SAID HE HAD SEOUL'S AUTHORIZATION TO NEGOTIATE BUT SODF FAR GSL OFFICIALS HAVE WANTED TO CONFINE DISCUSSION TO TRADE AND HAE SAID THAT POLITICAL MATTERS MIGHT COME LATER. CHO NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT PROMOTING TRADE WAS DIFFICULT AS SRI LANKA HAS LITTLE TO OFFER THAT KOREA NEEDS. THERE MIGHT BE POSSIBILITY OF ROK'S BUYING TEA DIRECTLY FROM SRI LANKA, RATHER THAN FROM USUAL HONG KONG SOURCES, AND MAKING SOME USE OF GSL'S GALLE FISHERIES HARBOR, ALTHOUGH FACILITIES ARE NOT REALLY SUITABLE FOR 30-SHIP KOREAN FISHING FLEET IN INDIAN OCEAN. THESE SECTIONS, HOWEVER, WOULD BE POLITICAL GESTURES, HE SAID.

3. DR. CHO ALSO DISCUSSED NORTH KOREAN MISSION, HEADED BY DPRK AMBASSADOR TO INDONESIA, WHICH VISITED MALDIVES LATE MAY REPORTEDLY FOR CONSULTATIONS ON UN MATTERS. ACCORDING TO CHOS'S INFORMATION, NORTH KOREANS WERE ANXIOUS TO OBTAIN, WHILE IN TRANSIT, HIGH-LEVEL MEETING WITH GSL OFFICIALS TO PRESS FOR REOPENING THEIR EMBASSY HERE WHICH WAS CLOSED AT TIME OF 1971 INSURGENCY, WITH STAFF BEING BOOTED OUT. CHO UNDERSTANDS NORTH KOREANS WERE, HOWEVER, ONLY ABLE TO GET INFORMAL MEETING WITH MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS DIRECTOR FOR ASIAN AFFAIRS AND THAT THEIR EFFORTS GOT NOWHERE.

4. COMMENT: IF ROK IN FACT ESTABLISHES RELATIONS WITH PAKISTAN, THIS LIKELY GIVE GOOD BOOST TO KOREAN EFFORTS TO UPGRADE RELATIONS HERE. ESTABLISHMENT DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS IS NOT LIKELY, HOWEVER, UNTIL NORTH KOREANS ARE ALLOWED BACK IN, AND PRIME MINISTER BANDARANAIKE HAS SAID THEY WILL NOT BE UNTIL TRIALS OF INSURGENTS ARE COMPLETED, PROBABLY NOT UNTIL END OF THIS YEAR AT EARLIEST. IF POSSIBLE, HOWEVER, THAT ROK MISSION DISCUSSED REFTEL C MAY PROVIDE OPPORTUNITY FOR KOREANS TO OPEN DIALOGUE ON DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATION HERE.

5. WOULD APPRECIATE BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION ON
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DR. CHO.
VAN HOLLEN

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